



International Relations SAIJO

Vol. 1 1
June 2016

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International Relations Saijo is a quarterly newsletter published in Japanese, English, and Vietnamese by the Saijo International Exchange Association (SaijoIEA). We welcome your comments, questions and submissions.



On May 29, the Saijo International Exchange Association held its annual general meeting in the main conference room of Saijo City Office.

After Chairperson Tsunemitsu's greeting, guests Mayor Masaru Aono and Saijo City Council Vice-Chairman Koichiro Kurokawa offered congratulatory remarks. The general meeting then reviewed activities and expenditures for 2015. The proposed activities and budget for 2016, as well as officer nominations, were all approved.

As in our first year, SaijoIEA will continue providing advice to Saijo's Japanese and non-Japanese residents. We will host and support more events and activities to improve international understanding. Furthermore, we plan to continue language courses and other educational events. Information will be distributed via our e-mail newsletter, new home page, Facebook, and more.

After the conclusion of the general meeting, Michiyo Arita of the International Cultural Exchange Associations gave a lecture entitled "Thinking about the Future of International Exchange in Saijo." Ms. Arita discussed topics

such as the meaning of international exchange, the role of private associations, and the present condition of non-Japanese residents in Japan.

We extend our gratitude to all participants and planners for making the second general meeting a success. (カ)

Membership Recruitment

Saijo International Exchange Association membership

【Annual Membership Fee】

Individual 1,000 yen
Student (HS and younger) 500 yen
Organization 10,000 yen

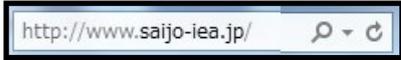
【Period】 April 1, 2016~Mar. 31, 2017

【How to become a member】

Complete a membership form and submit it to the SaijoIEA office (Saijo City Office International Affairs Section).

(Membership forms are available at city facilities and for download online.)

~A New Home for International Exchange~
SaijoIEA Home Page Now Online!



Our new page features up-to-date information about upcoming SaijoIEA events and language courses, as well as records of our past activities. The website will also feature application forms to register as a volunteer or request volunteer assistance.

We will be updating and improving the SaijoIEA website, so please check it regularly!

西条市国際交流協会

協会について ABOUT SaijoIEA | イベント情報 EVENT Guide | 過去の様子 PHOTO ALBUM | 語学講座 Language Courses | ボランティア Volunteer | さいじょう国際交流NEWS Newsletter | 入 MEM

2016 International Cafe Schedule

SaijoIEA will be holding our popular **International Cafe** four times in 2016-17. Enjoy conversation over tea, Vietnamese coffee and other treats. Any language is okay!

June 29 International Cafe special menu

- Vietnamese che dessert with lotus seeds
- Mochi candy stick (Soy sauce flavored rice candy)

★☆☆ 2016 International Cafe No. 1 ☆☆☆

- ◆Date June 29 (Wed) 6-8 p.m.
- ◆Place Sangyo Joho Shien Center (SICS)
150-1 Kanbai-ko, Saijo-shi
- ◆Cost ¥300 (SaijoIEA members: ¥200)
※No reservations necessary
- ◆Inquiries SaijoIEA Office
TEL 0897-52-1206

- ★No. 2 Aug. 10 (Wed) Sangyo Joho Shien Center
- ★No. 3 Nov. 2 (Wed) Tanbara Community Center
- ★No. 4 Feb. 1 (Wed) Sangyo Joho Shien Center



**Vietnam Note: Life in Secret
 Underground Tunnels**

There are two tunnel networks in Vietnam that have become famous tourism spots today. The first is the Cu Chi tunnels, located in the Cu Chi district about 70 km northwest of Ho Chi Minh City in southern Vietnam. The second network is the Vinh Moc tunnels located in Vinh Linh District, Quang Tri Province, about 60 km north of Hue in central Vietnam. During the Vietnam War, the location of these tunnels was secret. I would like to introduce the Vinh Moc tunnels in this column.

From 1965-72, central Vietnam was the target of heavy aerial bombing by the American military. Over 500,000 tons of bombs were dropped on Vinh Linh District (820 km²), an estimated average of 7 tons of explosives per person. To survive under these conditions, people began digging tunnels. At first, individual families dug tunnels for themselves. These tunnels were soon connected, and a large underground network developed. The largest network is the Vinh Moc tunnels.

The tunnels have a three-level structure. The first floor is 8-10 m beneath the ground. This level was used for habitation. The second floor is 12-15 m underground and was used as a shelter from aerial bombing. The third floor is approx. 23 m underground and was used to store food and weapons. The Vinh Moc tunnels have 13 entrances, 7 on the coast and 6 in the hills. The main passageway is 2000 m long. Along this passageway were structures of society: every 4 m there was space for a family of 4 (0.4 m by 1.8 m), classrooms, clinics, meeting areas, wells, kitchens, and more. Up to 1,200 people lived in the tunnels at one time. For 2,000 days they lived underground and were protected from bombings. 17 children were born there.

I was born 2 years after the war ended and so have no direct experience with the horrors of war, but I heard stories from my parents and could imagine what it was like. People today probably couldn't live 1 day in the tunnels, let alone 2,000.

After the war, the tunnels became tourism spots. If you are interested in seeing what life was like in these wartime tunnels, I encourage you to take a trip to Vietnam. (レ)



International Camp

From March 25-27, the first International camp was held at Omachi Community Center. 20 junior high and high school students spent time with ALTs and Ehime University students, learning about other cultures and practicing communication skills. We received comments from the college students.

I love English, so I started studying in preschool and have studied abroad in America and worked as an English tutor. However, there was a time when I hated English. This is because English education in Asia is a mountain of tests. I took tests and did homework everyday, but I could not understand why I was studying English. There must have been many students who felt the same as me.

At this camp, I was able to answer questions from the students. English is a way to connect with many people. No matter what language you study, as you learn you will become able to understand other countries. The students tried their hardest to speak English and other languages. I was impressed. English is not just about tests, but is a good way to make friends. This is what I learned. **Ms. Liao** (Taiwan)



The International Camp in Saijo was an important life experience for me. I could only spend a short time with the people I met there, but we became very close. We played games together, worked in groups, cooked, and slept in the same room. It is a beautiful memory. I will always be grateful for this wonderful opportunity.

Elena (Romania)

In Saijo I was able to meet young people who are not college students. It was a fresh experience. Everyone was kind and friendly. The passion of the students inspired me to work harder. We ate ice cream and my bibimbap (Spicy! Spicy!) together. The students tried everything. I had a lot of fun. **Min Woo** (Korea)

I found that the pace of activities was well structured. The first workshops started smoothly for the young and they adapted more easily, over time, young people were increasingly requested to participate. What was also nice is that the atmosphere stayed relaxed, which I think is essential in such camps: learn while having fun.

The confidence and the atmosphere was also acquired through the culinary activity. This activity helped to strengthen the links between high school and counselors. I particularly liked this activity because it was a cultural exchange as each group chose the dishes they wanted to cook. In my group we had chosen to make tacos and dessert: fruit salad and clafoutis strawberries (French dessert).

In conclusion I really enjoyed this experience and I would recommend it. The sentences to adapt for this experience: "Experiment with the language, but above all a human experience."

Sabine (France)

Now Recruiting Host Families

SaijoIEA is accepting applications for host families to welcome exchange students from Hebei University in Baoding. Our cities have a friendship relationship.

For exchange students with an interest in Japan, the chance to experience everyday life with a host family is unforgettable. Host families will learn about Chinese culture and form bonds of friendship! Becoming a host will allow your family to have a wonderful experience crossing language and culture.

- Homestay period: July 20 (Wed) ~ August 3 (Wed)
- Number of participants: 17 Japanese department students, 2 English department students, 1 instructor
- An explanatory meeting will be held in early July.

★☆☆Inquiries☆☆★

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Eigo de
GO!

Why are you studying English?
—Reconsidering your goals and methods—

When I speak to someone whom I have just met in Japanese, they often ask, “How did you study Japanese?” The implied question is, “How should I study English so that I can speak at a high level?”

I have studied Japanese for 10 years. In that time, I have tried many methods and learned from many teachers.

To become fluent in a language, environment is more important than anything else. But when I tell this to people in living Saijo, I always feel guilty because it is impossible to truly immerse yourself in an English language environment here. That does not mean that living in Saijo precludes you from becoming fluent in English, but that selecting effective study methods is essential to reaching your goals.

In any case, while speaking and listening as much as possible is best, people are busy and selecting study methods suited to your needs and abilities will keep you from wasting time. I always ask my English students to think about the following two questions. I en-

courage you to think about them as well.

1. Why are you interested in English?
2. What do you want to use English to do?

With these questions as a jumping off point, it is important to think about your goals. Simple goals such as “I enjoy studying English, so I just want to have fun” or “I want to keep my mind active” are great. More complex goals such as “I want to travel to foreign countries and speak with many people” are also wonderful. I think that there are many college students who started studying Japanese because they wanted to be able to watch anime without subtitles.

You might be surprised how much you learn by studying with a clear goal in mind. I watched a lot of anime in college and have been told by teachers that it improved my pronunciation. (I do not know if this is true, but it’s a nice thought.)

I recommend that people who say “I don’t have any goals” or “I forgot why I started studying English” to reevaluate the goals and methods.

I will be leaving Saijo in August, so this is my last column. Nothing would make me happier than for my readers to keep practicing English. Good luck! (J)

Events & Announcements

SaijoIEA Volunteer Registry

The Saijo International Exchange Association connects people interested in volunteering and those who require volunteer assistance for international exchange activities or living support.

○ I want to volunteer!

<Volunteer Registry>

When support is necessary, SaijoIEA will contact qualified registered volunteers with a request.

- * Volunteer interpreter/translator (foreign language)
- * Japanese language supporter
- * Host family volunteer bank

<Event Staff>

Recruitment for each event will take place before the event.

○ I need help from a volunteer!

We accept requests for volunteer assistance.

- * Interpretation/translation for events and non-Japanese resident lifestyle support
- * Japanese language study (non-Japanese)
- * Homestay (application deadline: two months in advance)
- * Other (cultural exchange events, etc.)

※There are cases in which we are unable to accept requests.

★☆How to Register☆★

Register through the “Volunteer” page of the SaijoIEA website.

※We hope that we can count on the support of new and continuing volunteers for the 2016-17 year.

International Exchange Lecture The Aloha State: An Introduction to Hawaii

Yu and Jake, University of Hawaii students interning for Ehime Prefecture, will introduce their home state’s history and culture. Includes a ukulele performance.

※Lecture will be held in Japanese

Date: July 9 (Sat) 2-3:30 p.m.

Place: Saijo Public Welfare Center, Kenshushitsu 2 (3F)

Max participants: 60 (first come, first served)

Application period: until July 8 (Fri)

Organized by SaijoIEA (TEL 0897-52-1206)

Editor
Notes

In April I joined the editorial staff of *International Relations Saijo*. I will do my best to make this newsletter exciting and fun, so I hope you will continue reading it. (石)

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Miho Ishimura (石)

Mamiko Imai (今)

